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Lawyer Says Sirhan Doesn't Deny Shooting

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Defense counsel for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan said today there will be no denial that Sirhan fired the shot that killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Grant B. Cooper made the statement to the first prospective juror called in the case, after the court denied a defense motion to set aside the list of prospective trial jurors.

THE PROSPECTIVE juror, George Doudle, an administrator for Aerospace Corp., was excused after he said he would not be able to give the defendant a fair trial because he knew Sirhan shot Kennedy.

Cooper said while questioning him that there would be "no denial of the fact that our client, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, fired the shot that killed the late senator and injured others."

This was the first time Kennedy's name had been mentioned in court since the trial began last Tuesday.

Cooper said commission of the act of shooting was not enough to constitute guilt and it will be the jury's job to consider the intent.

THE DELAYED process of jury selection began after the judge presiding over Sirhan's trial on a charge he murdered Kennedy ruled on the jury system motion.

His ruling was on grounds that the jury system does not systematically exclude any particular group, as the defense contended.

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker conceded cer-

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tain professional groups—including ministers, doctors and persons in public office—are exempt.

BUT HE added: "The exemption is required to be taken and they are not automatically excluded."

The judge said, he found no persons of any ethnic, sociological or economic group had been systematically excluded from the list.

The defense contended the system yielded juries not representative of the entire community.

AFTER RULING on the motion the judge called for the first prospective juror.

Sirhan, 24, strode into court briskly for the fourth day of the trial, waved to relatives in the spectator section, then conferred with his attorneys.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the security force guarding the tiny eight floor courtroom said prospective jurors will not be given the thorough search all others entering the court undergo.

THE THOROUGH search, the spokesman said, was ruled out on grounds it might be prejudicial to the defendant.

During jury selection the judge will question prospective jurors privately in chambers on "sensitive" areas. A defense attorney, Grant B. Cooper, said this means possible opinions jurors might hold about Sirhan's guilt or innocence.

Routine questions, such as the panelist's opinion on the death penalty, would be asked in open court, Cooper said.